

Message Text

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9519

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG UN LE IS MILI
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

REFS: (A) STATE 189490, (B) BEIRUT 4227, (C) TEL AVIV 9485

1. THE EARLIEST I CAN MEET WITH WEIZMAN TO PRESENT DEMARCHE (REF A) IS FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 28. HAVE TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT AT 0830. HE IS TOTALLY TIED UP TODAY CONDUCTING A REVIEW AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONCERNING CURRENT KEY SECURITY QUESTIONS INCLUDING THAT OF LEBANON. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, OTHER CABINET MEMBERS AND SENIOR MILITARY ARE ALSO ATTENDING THIS REVIEW. HOWEVER, AS STATED IN REF C, WEIZMAN GAVE LEONARD AND ME A CLEAR COMMITMENT THAT, WHEN THE LAF MOVES SOME UNITS SOUTH, THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT CAUSE THEM PROBLEMS - AT LEAST SO LONG AS THEY DEPLOY ONLY INTO AREAS NOW FULLY UNDER UNIFIL'S CONTROL.

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2. NONETHELESS, WE HAVE GRAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PLAN FOR MOVEMENT OF LAF ELEMENTS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT PROPOSES TO DEAL WITH HADDAD AND SHADDIAC. UNLESS THERE IS ALREADY SOME UNDERSTANDING OR "LEBANESE SOLUTION" BETWEEN BEIRUT AND HADDAD THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HADDAD WILL PEACEFULLY GO OFF TO AFRICA UPON THE ARRIVAL

OF THE LAF IN THE AREA. WITHOUT SOME FIRM PRIOR AGREEMENT, WE THINK THERE IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR REAL TROUBLE IN THE PLAN OUTLINED IN PARA 5, REF B, WHICH INDICATES THAT THE LEBANESE ARE GOING TO IMPLY TRANSFER HADDAD AND SHADDIAC, ASKING THEM TO TURN COMMAND OVER TO THEIR DEPUTIES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MOVING THE LAF THROUGH THEIR AREA. HADDAD'S AUTHORITY IN PARTICULAR MAY BE NEEDED TO PREVENT HIS TROOPS OR THE MILITARY TAKING A FEW POT SHOTS AS THE LAF SKIRTS MARJAYUN.

3. I STRONGLY URGE THAT PARKER GO BACK TO BOUTROS BEFORE I SEE WEIZMAN AND URGE A MODIFICATION TO THE PLAN. THERE SHOULD BE TWO STAGES, NOT ONE. FIRST BRING DOWN THE UNITS INTO THE UNIFIL AREA SUCH AS TIBNIN AND, ONLY AFTER THAT IS ACCOMPLISHED, TAKE ACTION WITH RESPECT TO HADDAD AND SHADDIAC.

4. IT WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT TO REDUCE ISRAELI CONCERNS ABOUT THE VANGUARDS OF THE BEKAA. AT PRESENT, THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE THEM TO BE SYRIAN-DOMINATED. I MUST BE ABLE TO ASSURE WEIZMAN THAT THE FORCE ORGANIZED TO COME SOUTH HAS BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED, AS WELL AS BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE AS MUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COL SAAD, MAJOR SHAHIM, AND THEIR FORCE AS POSSIBLE.

5. IF THE LEBANESE AGREE TO THIS MODIFICATION AND
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ASSURE US THAT THEY WILL WAIT UNTIL AFTER THEY ARE DEPLOYED TO CONSUMMATE SOME "LEBANESE SOLUTION" FOR HADDAD WHICH WILL NOT PUNISH HIM, THEN I CAN GO TO WEIZMAN AND TELL HIM TO MAKE SURE THAT HADDAD'S FORCES DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE MOVEMENT AS THE LAF PASSES NEAR MARJAYUN AND AL-KHIAM. THE ILMAC MEETING IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION; I TRUST THE GOL WILL FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT AS PLANNED. LEWIS

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